

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A process for fabricating a photonics package comprising:

positioning and securing a photodetector [[in]] on a first wall of a housing in alignment with and opposite to an aperture in a second wall of the housing;

securing, as by laser welding, a first closure over the aperture, the first closure including a window aligned with the photodetector;

enclosing a portion of an optical fiber in a ferrule;

inserting an optical fiber an end portion of the optical fiber enclosed in the ferrule through a flange and through the window into the housing with the flange abutting the first closure and covering the window;

determining the relative location of the optical fiber with respect to the photodetector through a viewing aperture in the housing;

laterally adjusting the position of the flange on the first closure as needed to align the optical fiber with the photodetector;

longitudinally adjusting the location of the ferrule within the flange as needed to adjust the spacing between the optical fiber and the photodetector;

welding the ferrule to the flange;

securing the optical fiber to the flange;

initially laser welding the flange to the housing;

affixing activating a settable sealing material for hermetically sealing the flange to the housing by a settable sealing material; [[and]]

adjusting the position of the flange on the housing and further laser welding the flange as the sealing material sets while affixing the flange to accurately position the optical fiber with

respect to the photodetector[[.]]; and

securing a second closure over the viewing aperture.

Claim 2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (canceled)

Claim 4. (canceled)

Claim 5. (canceled)

Claim 6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (canceled)

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (currently amended) The process of claim [[6]] 1 wherein the step of enclosing the optical fiber in the ferrule further includes, further including securing a ferrule to the optical fiber by staking a first end of the ferrule to an optical fiber jacket, and hermetically sealing a second end of the ferrule to the optical fiber.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The process of claim 9, wherein ~~securing the optical fiber~~ welding the ferrule to the flange includes ring welding.

Claim 11. (canceled)

Claim 12. (canceled)

Claim 13. (currently amended) A process for fabricating an optical fiber assembly for a photonics package comprising:

positioning a photodetector in a housing ~~in a first plane~~;

securing a cylindrical, elongated ferrule coaxially around a jacketed optical fiber;

exposing the distal end of the fiber;

adjustably positioning the ferrule coaxially within a cylindrical flange;

securing the ferrule within the flange;

inserting the distal end of the fiber into the housing through ~~an aperture~~ a fiber alignment window so that the axis of the fiber is located in a second plane perpendicular to the first plane;

initially welding the flange to the housing;

~~affixing~~ activating a settable sealing material for hermetically sealing the flange to the housing ~~by a settable sealing material;~~ and

adjusting the position of the flange on the housing while ~~affixing the flange~~ the sealing material sets to seal the flange to the housing and to accurately position the optical fiber with respect to the photodetector.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A photonics package including:

a housing including spaced front and back walls;

an aperture in said front wall;

a photosensitive element mounted on said back wall within the housing and in alignment with said aperture , ~~said photosensitive element located in a first plane;~~

a first closure for said aperture;

a fiber ~~adjustment~~ alignment window in said first closure ~~through said front wall~~ opposite said photosensitive element;

a viewing aperture in said housing providing access to the interior of said housing during assembly of said photonics package;

a fiber optic assembly including an optical fiber, a ferrule coaxial with and surrounding said optical fiber, and a cylindrical flange receiving said ferrule, said assembly being located so that said fiber extends through said alignment window into said housing and with said flange abutting said front wall and covering said window, [[:]] said flange being laterally adjustable with respect to said window and with respect to said photosensitive element and initially secured to said front wall via welding;

a groove located on said front wall adjacent said alignment window, said groove containing a settable sealing material; and

said flange being hermetically sealed to said front wall by [[a]] said settable material and further laser welded to secure said optical fiber to allow alignment of said optical fiber while said material is setting ~~and to locate~~ to position said optical fiber in said fiber ~~adjustment~~ alignment window[[;]] and to align the distal end of the fiber ~~an end portion of said optical fiber located in a second plane being perpendicular to said first plane, said end portion of said optical fiber in optical connection with said photosensitive element.~~

Claim 15. (canceled)

Claim 16. (previously presented) The photonics package of claim 14, wherein said settable material is solder.

Claim 17. (canceled)

Claim 18. (canceled)

Claim 19. (canceled)

Claim 20. (currently amended) The photonics package of claim 14, wherein said viewing aperture is sealed by a [[lid]] second closure following the assembly of said photonics package.

Claim 21. (canceled)